

## ORNAMENTAL PLANTS

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Ornamental plants are the primary tool in developing functional and beautiful home grounds; the knowledge of plants, their demands, and their proper usage is seldom understood by the homeowner.

Every plant in the landscape should satisfy a definite landscape need; otherwise, it becomes an added expense, a space taker, or a liability rather than an asset to the homeowner. To achieve full use of a plant in the landscape, the user must know the plant he chooses - its growth requirements and its abilities to satisfy the need for which it is intended.

The following list of plants are broken down into basic or general usage areas with basic growth demands, plant characteristics and sizes, and values and drawbacks. Common names and scientific names are listed. The scientific name should be used when possible because many plants have various common names. Quite often two plants may have the same common name. This plant listing is by no means inclusive.

Vines - Climbing plants used on supports such as walls, fences, arbors, and trellises. Vines are an advantage in that they require less ground space, yet can provide attractive masses of bloom and/or foliage.

- a. English Ivy (*Herdera helix* and others) - Evergreen - shade or partial sun - fast growth good for screening.
- b. Climbing Fig (*Ficus pumila*) - Often used on walls and flat surfaces - vines lies flat - evergreen - sun or shade - fast growth.
- c. Wisteria (*Wisteria sinensis*) - Deciduous - sun - fast growth often gets out of control - fragrant lavender or white blooms in 6 to 12 inch clusters in late spring - may be pruned to form large shrub or small tree.
- d. Carolina or Yellow Jessamine (*gelsemium sempervirens*) - Twining semievergreen vine - yellow trumpet blooms in spring - climbs to high heights to reach the sun where it forms masses of foliage and bloom - fast growth - native to East Texas.
- e. Autumn Clematis (*Clematis paniculata*) - Sun with roots in shade if possible - forms large masses of foliage

and small clusters of white blooms in late summer and fall - semievergreen - fast growth - one of the only Clematis which do well in the lower south - provide good support and mulch root area.

- f. Confederate or Star Jasmine (Trachelospermum jasminoides) - Evergreen twining vine - white star-shaped blooms in early summer are very fragrant - prefers moist loamy soil - susceptible to scale and white-fly.
- g. Cypress Vine (Quamoclit pinnata) - An annual twining vine which reseeds to return each year - very fine textured foliage - fast growing - likes sun - red or white small trumpet blooms in summer.
- h. Potato Vine (Discerea) - Grown for foliage effect - die in winter to return in spring - fast growth - prefers sun.
- i. Fatshedra (Fatshedra lizei) - A cross between Fatsia and English Ivy - evergreen - leaning type vine - large coarse textured leaves - hardy - shade or partial sun - fast growth - prefers sun.
- j. Rosa De Montana, Coral Vine (Antigonon leptopus) - Very vigorous late summer blooming vine with vivid pink clusters on yellow-green foliage - dies in winter to return in spring - will climb to 30 feet in one growing season.
- k. Evergreen Smilax (Smilax lanceolata) - Very rugged evergreen vine - grown for foliage effect - spreads by underground tubers.
- l. Virginia Creeper (Parthenocissus quinquefolia) - Fast growing deciduous vine - shows rich, red fall color - clings to walls or trellis - easy culture - native to North and East Texas.
- m. Snailseed or Moonseed Vine - A delicate native vine of North and East Texas - deciduous but returns each spring - displays clusters of rich, red berries in fall and early winter.
- n. Common Trumpet Creeper (Campsis radicans) - Clinging vine which demands sun and grows to great heights - deciduous - displays large orange-red trumpets of blooms throughout summer - easy and fast growth - native to most of Texas - "Madam Galen" improved variety.

- o. Hyacinth Bean (*Golchos lablab*) - Non-woody twining vine with purple foliage, pinkish-lavender blooms in summer and fall, and purple seed pods in the fall - very fast growing - freezes back in winter to return in spring - not a dense vine.
  
- p. Coral or Red-honeysuckle (*Lonicera sempervirens*) - Evergreen twining vine producing abundant red trumpet blooms in late spring - not as vigorous as common honeysuckle, thus not a pest - fast growth - native to East Texas.